

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND  
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February 15, 2022

Town of Rockland  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
242 Union Street  
Rockland, MA 02370  
Via email: [zoning@rockland-ma.gov](mailto:zoning@rockland-ma.gov)

**Re: Holy Family School, 6 Delprete Avenue, Rockland, MA**

Dear Ms. Simon:

I am writing in support of Connolly and Partners, LLC application for the Holy Family School located at 6 Delprete Avenue in Rockland for Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

The Holy Family School constructed in 1964-65 was designed by noted Boston architect, John A. McPherson. McPherson was regionally known for his ecclesiastic designs, ranging from churches and chapels to convents and other parochial schools. The Holy Family School is significant for its association with the Holy Family Parish, founded in Rockland in 1882 in the decade following Rockland's separation from Abington (1874). The school closed in June 2018 due to low enrollment and a growing budget deficit. The interior still retains original historic character, with tile floors, tile dadoes and chalkboards and coat closets.

Plans are currently underway to convert the former school building for multi-family residential use, specifically as affordable elderly housing. The proposed work includes cleaning and repairing the exterior masonry, significant interior elements will be retained and repaired and new partitions put in place to create 27 affordable units of housing. Additionally, all new building systems will also be installed to ensure tenant safety, security and convenience. The project proponent also intends to apply for the federal rehabilitation tax credit, so all work will comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Accordingly, this project appears to meet the criteria for eligibility for the MHRTC.

We strongly support this project and hope that Connolly and Partners, LLC receives the full allocation of state historic tax credits necessary to bring this worthy endeavor to a financially feasible fruition.

Thanking you for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
James R Paul  
Chairman  
Rockland Historical Commission